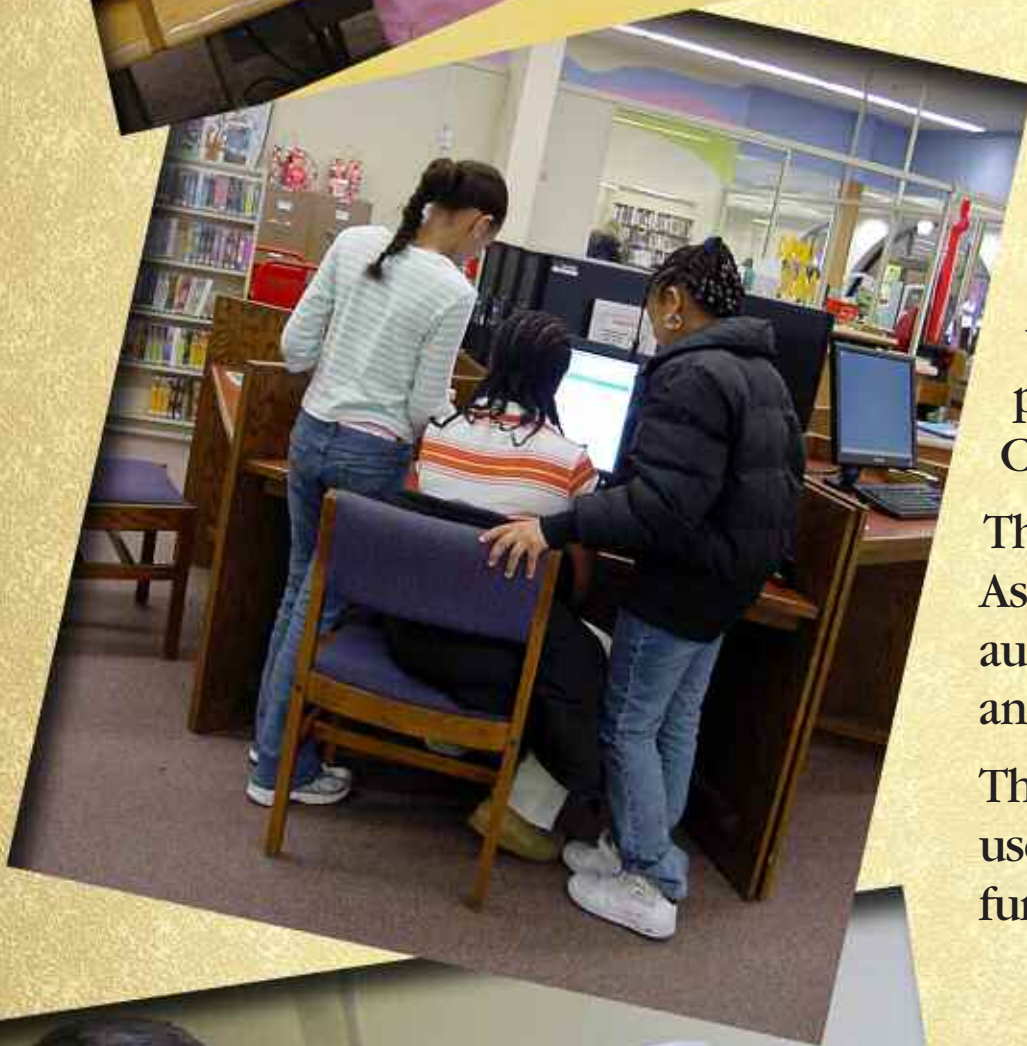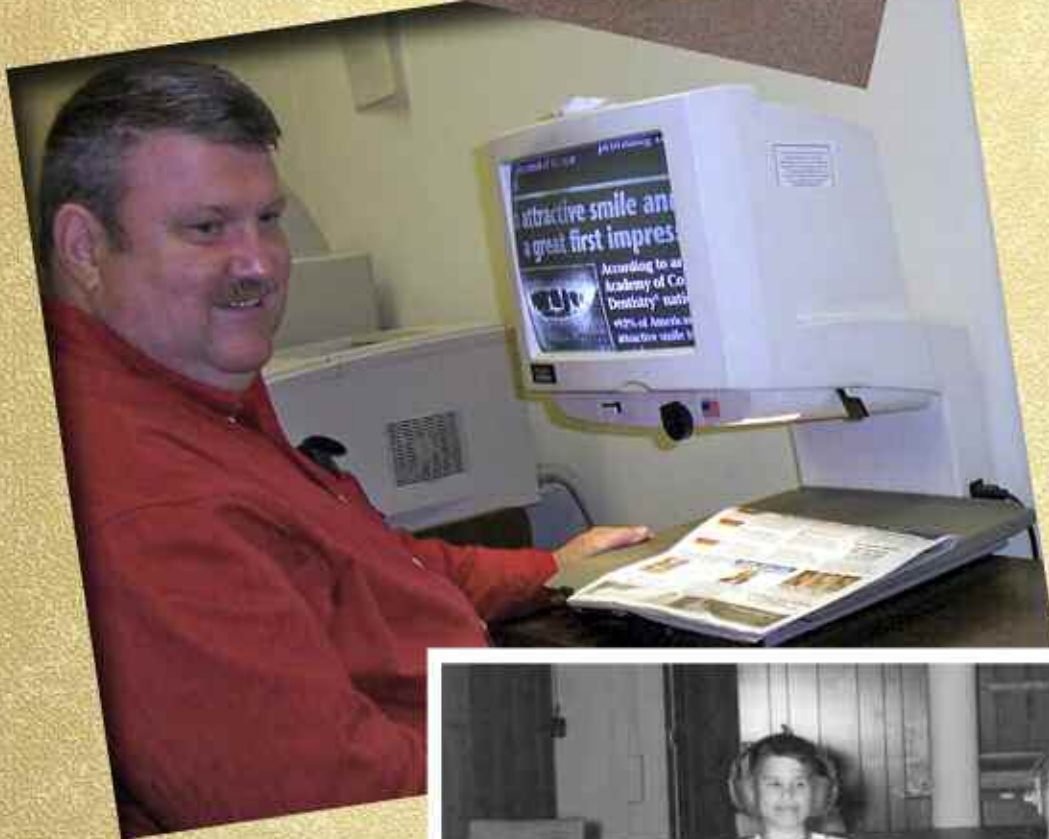# The Impact of Technology

Advances in technology and the evolution of the Internet have impacted nearly all aspects of the library, including cataloguing, reference, and circulation. As the informational needs and expectations of users changed, library services evolved to include computerization of the library catalog, subscriptions to electronic databases that access thousands of magazine and newspaper articles, PCs for public access to the Internet, wireless Internet access, the introduction of CDs, DVDs, and MP3s, and PCs loaded with children's games.

In 1991, computerization led to the demise of the card catalog. The new automated cataloguing system gave patrons the ability to access the holdings of the library and its partners from anywhere in the world. In 2005, the system was upgraded to a Windows-based software, and a new partnership, which now includes the Amherst County Public Library, was formed to expand services.

The library's first media was the 33⅓ phono record. As the technology evolved, the library added audiocassettes, videos, books on CD, movies on DVDs, and MP3s.

The impact of technology is also evident in the heavily used computer lab and the library's website, which has functioned as an additional "branch" since 2000.
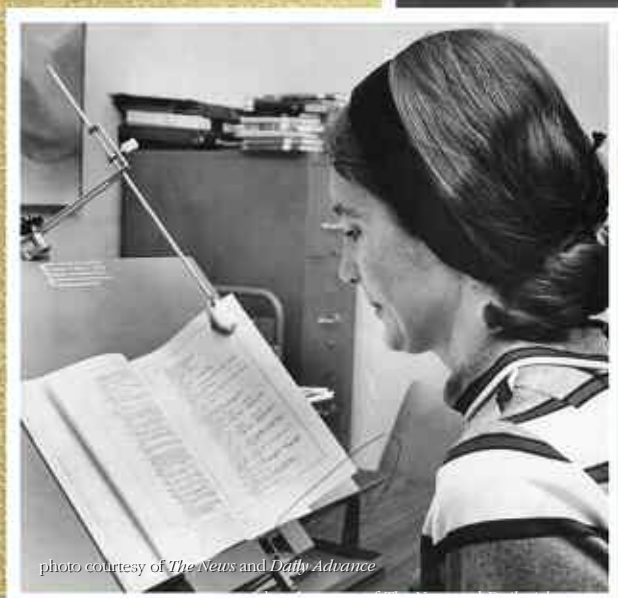
Richard Patterson uses an electronic magnifier, which was donated by the Lynchburg Exchange Club.

David Rowland demonstrates the Regiscope, a book charging machine, to Mrs. William Breazeale, Mrs. W. Romney Watkins, Miller Boord, and J. Burton Linker.

The library's first media — 33⅓ rpm phono records

Jane Black, library director, demonstrates an automatic page-turner, an example of technology from the 1960s.

Jean Parsonage checks out books using the Regiscope, a state-of-the-art, photo-numeric based method of checking out books that was very labor intensive.